GUIDE TO THE SD6 CAYAPA FILE

[This file is concerned with the Cayapa tribe, who live in northwestern Ecuador and speak a Chibchan language. They are primarily agriculturalists, with the staple foods being plantain and sweet manioc. Hunting and fishing are also important. There is not a great deal of concrete data on them available in the literature. The file contains probably all the significant sources on the Cayapa to date.

There are four sources in the Cayapa file, three of them in English and one being a translation from the German (1: Heimann). The basic source is a two-volume monograph by Samuel A. Barrett, a well-known anthropologist (3: Barrett). This source, based on field work done in 1908-1909, is a good, though incomplete description of the group. The sections on material culture and subsistence patterns are quite thorough. The source also contains material on the ceremonies of the group, and some material on the life cycle. 4: Altschuler, also by an anthropologist, is a study of legal behavior, which also provides a good recent ethnographic summary of Cayapa culture and ecology. 2: Murra is essentially a summary of Barrett by an anthropologist, with such other items as could be extracted from the scanty literature on this group, both historical and contemporary. 1: Heimann is a German traveler's account of these people, written in a most impressionistic manner. It adds a little information on the status of the culture in the time period after Barrett's field work. The Cayapa file, while adequate for many comparative purposes, does not really provide much information in depth aside from that on material culture. The file was processed between 1957 and 1966.]